



# CMPS Newsletter

Excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education

Fall / Winter 2016 Volume 62

## CMPS Officers

**President:**

Andrea Orabona

**Past President:**

Karie Decker

**Vice President:**

Jim Hays

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Laurel Badura

**TWS Council Representative:**

Bob Lanka

**Board Members at Large:**

Shelly Deisch  
Stephanie Ferrero  
Justin Hamilton  
Lindsey Messinger

**Newsletter Editor:**

Aleshia Fremgen

## Message from the President

As I settled in to write my first CMPS President's Message, 3 things immediately came to mind. First, is the hard work and dedication to the Section and the wildlife resource of those who served before me. I'd like to thank our outgoing President (and now Past-President), Karie Decker, for her steady leadership over the past 2 years, which set a strong stage for me. Thanks also to the outgoing Board Members At-large, Mindy Rice and Silks Kempema, for all their help keeping the Section moving forward during their tenure on the Executive Board. Finally, my sincere thanks to all those who have stepped up over the years into leadership roles in CMPS, including our current Executive Board members (see sidebar), serving because of their passion for what they do and who we are as an organization.



Secondly, I reflected on why I decided to serve CMPS myself. Sure, it may be easier and less time consuming to be involved in the Section from the sidelines. But I find that the act of participating in something I truly believe in, like The Wildlife Society in her many forms, provides a win-win situation for both our professional organization and me as a biologist and human being. In order to be relevant, successful, and viable, we absolutely need the enthusiasm, expertise, and efforts of our members to carry our collective message and goals and ensure we continue to do right by the resources we study, manage, and conserve. Thus, I encourage any of you who feel the same to get involved in The Wildlife Society in whatever level suits you. I experienced first-hand this genuine desire to participate and make a difference in our profession at the annual TWS Conference in Raleigh, NC. We should all applaud the tireless work of those who toiled behind the scenes for many, many months to organize and deliver a remarkable conference experience for all attendees. It was a pleasure to visit with long-time friends and colleagues, and meet new ones through our mutual interests in the myriad topics offered during the 5-day conference. The variety of presentations, posters, plenary sessions, special events, socials, and the famed Quiz Bowl ensured there was something for everyone in our diverse profession, from students to seasoned professionals. My sincere thanks to all who ensured our time spent in Raleigh was applicable and enjoyable.

Lastly, I thought about the future of the resource in the hands of those who are rising to the task of wildlife and habitat conservation as they prepare for or begin their careers, especially with the challenges of what's to come, both known and unknown. Again at the Raleigh TWS Conference, I found opportunities to engage with students and young professionals, and was delighted with the remarkable talents and enthusiasm they bring to the table. For those of you in the heart or nearing the end of your wildlife career, I urge you to leave a legacy of your expertise by getting involved with our young contemporaries through mentoring, sharing your skills, or providing training opportunities. The perfect avenue to achieve this is by being involved in The Wildlife Society at the Student, State, Section, and/or national levels. Your efforts will be well received and invaluable.

Andrea Orabona, CMPS President

## Inside this issue:

Section Business	2
TWS Council Report	7
Chapter Updates	10
Upcoming Events	17
Annual Business Meeting Minutes	18
Board Meeting Minutes	21
CMPS Directory	22





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Section Business

### CMPS Meeting Awards

The 2016 CMPS Awards were presented at the Annual CMPS Meeting in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

#### **2016 CMPS Professional of the Year Award**

Congratulations to Dr. George M. Linz, selected as the 2016 CMPS Professional Award winner. Dr. Linz has been involved with a wide range of wildlife research including assessing blackbird and starling impacts on agriculture, assessing impacts of fruit-eating birds on orchards and vineyards, managing bird-human conflicts, and creating environmentally-safe damage management strategies, to name but a few. One of his important findings was discovering that herbicides could be used to open up cattail-choked ponds. George found that once open water was created in these ponds; duck use increased and blackbird and starling use decreased. Dr. Linz has been active for many years in the conveyance of information to the public, stakeholders, and peers through multiple publication outlets. These publications range from 131 non-refereed articles, to 33 graduate student disquisitions, 6 book chapters, and 91 peer-reviewed articles. Additionally, he has attended 184 conferences, grower workshops, and stakeholder meetings, where he often is an invited speaker. Each of these publication outlets reaches a different audience and is thus, important in its own right. Dr. Linz's work has been positively impacting wildlife and our natural resources world from the 1980s to the present. Congrats to Dr. George M. Linz as the CMPS Professional Award winner for 2016!

#### **2016 CMPS Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award**

Congratulations to the Blue Valley Ranch located south of Kremmling, in Grand County, Colorado; as the recipient of the 2016 CMPS Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award for their outstanding efforts and contributions to the Colorado State Highway 9 Safety and Improvement Project. Owners and staff of Blue Valley Ranch worked tirelessly and diligently with Colorado Department of Transportation, Grand County, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, other communities, individuals, and interested parties in bringing the SH 9 (State Highway 9) Wildlife and Safety project to a reality. Discussions for the project began in 2001 and Blue Valley Ranch was in it for the long haul. They participated with their time, talents, and leadership, as well as significant funding; in the development of the 11 mile long wildlife highway crossing project. The project utilizes a mix of seven wildlife crossings (underpasses, overpasses, and wildlife fencing) to avoid animal-vehicle accidents on a stretch of highly traveled, two-lane highway that has among "the most animal-to-vehicle collisions in the state". Construction on the project began in 2015 and should be completed in the near future. Congrats to Mr. Jones, Sher, Josh, and Blue Valley Ranch for their involvement with this and other ongoing wildlife projects in Grand County, Colorado... and as CMPS Citizen's Conservation Award winners for 2016!





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Section Business

### Welcome to New Chapters

The Central Mountains and Plains Section recognized and welcomed three new Student Chapters in 2016. The University of Utah joined in March and Valley City State University of North Dakota joined CMPS in July. Weber State University of Utah is also a new Student Chapter.

### Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Awardees

CMPS received a total of 11 Student Travel Grant applications. Travel grants were approved to the University of North Dakota for three members, to Mercedee Shaw of the University of Utah, to Mark Chynoweth of the University of Utah, and to Rebecca Much of Colorado State University.

### Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Awardee Mark Chynoweth's Report

Thanks to support from the 2016 Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant from the Central Mountains and Plains Section, I was able to travel to Raleigh, North Carolina for the 2016 annual meeting of The Wildlife Society.

My time at the meeting was spent listening to presentations on current wildlife research, attending workshops and social events, and presenting my own research during Monday's poster session. As I near the end of my PhD program at the University of Utah, this conference came at an ideal time to present my work and network with professionals; I was even able to connect with several potential employers during the poster session. I am very pleased to say that my poster was awarded Honorable Mention for the PhD Student Poster Award.

It was a very productive and rewarding experience presenting my research at the conference, but I also benefited from all the networking events that occurred on a nightly basis. I was able to meet many other students and professionals and it was very encouraging to discuss wildlife research and management with these inspirational people. I am motivated by my experience at the conference and look forward to attending next year! Thanks to the Central Mountains and Plains Section for your support!

### Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Awardee Rebecca Much's Report

Thanks to the generous support of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society, I was able to travel to Raleigh, North Carolina with three other members of the Colorado State University Student Chapter of TWS, where we participated in all five days of the TWS Annual Conference. The experience was incredible, leaving my fellow club members and I full of inspiration and information. The first day of the conference I attended the Quantitative Analysis of Satellite Derived Data workshop, at which we learned about new technologies to analyze satellite data, along with a sampling of scripts and methods to analyze movement, homerange, and spatial capture-recapture information. Throughout the rest of the conference, I attended myriad sessions that piqued my interest. I found the Animal Movement Symposium particularly interesting, and was absolutely astounded by the dialogue presented in the session on Public and Private Partnerships in Conservation. In addition, I presented a poster during the student poster session on undergraduate research that I have been conducting, giving me the opportunity to practice presenting and discussing my research. Beyond the programmed sustenance that the conference afforded me, I was additionally thrilled to make acquaintances with a wide breadth of professionals, academics, and fellow students. Thank you again to TWS CMPS for this constructive and memorable experience!





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 4

## Section Business

### **Wayne Sandfort Student Travel Grant Awardees John Palarski, Nick Conrad, and Lindsay Wise's Report**

We would like to thank CMPS again for your gracious contribution to our travel funds through the CMPS travel grant. This grant went a long way in allowing us to attend the National Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina this past October. The funds provided were instrumental in not only allowing us to participate in the conference, but to also have the positive experiences that we did. All three of us were able to give poster presentations, as well as network with other professionals and attend numerous informative talks on a wide array of fascinating topics. As for this update, we would like to take a moment to highlight some of the many great experiences we had on the trip.

As mentioned earlier, all three of us gave poster presentations on various topics related to the wildlife field. John Palarski presented on predation patterns of waterfowl nests while Nick Conrad presented his research on blue-winged teal nesting ecology. Lindsay Wise also presented her research regarding least tern and piping plover parental nest behaviors in response to variable sand temperatures. During the poster presentations, both John and Nick got to meet Dr. Scott Yaich who is the Chief Scientist for Ducks Unlimited, and this interaction proved to be both thought-provoking and productive.

In addition to giving poster presentations, John and Nick both got the opportunity to attend a student leadership lunch to discuss what the UND chapter and other chapters across the country are doing to make their member's experiences positive and productive. A plethora of tremendous advice and insight was shared amongst the students and both John and Nick were able to take away many new ideas regarding membership boosting and new fundraising techniques. The student leadership luncheon also introduced the UND and the NDSU student chapter leaders. Officers from both chapters got the opportunity to spend some time together and forge a great relationship. Lindsay was able to get more involved at the conference by volunteering her time at the photo contest and speaker presentation rooms. She got to network with individuals, and listen in on many informative speeches given by wildlife professionals and graduate students on a variety of topics.

We are very grateful for all that you have done in allowing us to attend the conference. The lessons and experiences that we took away from the week in Raleigh are unforgettable and will be applied in our future careers as wildlife biologists.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Section Business



Pictures from CMPS President Andrea Orabona's visit to TWS National Conference in Raleigh. Top left: downtown Raleigh. Top right: Quiz Bowl final round. Bottom left: vendor and supporter booths.



### SAVE THE DATE!!

Mark your calendars for the 2017 joint Annual Meeting of the South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society and Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society! The conference will be held from February 27 – March 1 at the Cedar Shore Resort in Ocoma, SD. The theme of "Precision Conservation: The Interface of Wildlife, Agriculture, and People" is a salient and timely topic for all CMPS states! In addition to the plenary, presentation, and poster sessions, there will be a silent auction, live auction, and gun raffle. A photo contest is also planned (\$5 entry fee/photo), and the winning photo will be made into a canvas print and auctioned off at the 2018 SDTWS meeting. Direct any questions or ideas for presentations to SDTWS members Nathan Baker ([nathan.baker@state.sd.us](mailto:nathan.baker@state.sd.us)) or Josh Stafford ([joshua.stafford@sdstate.edu](mailto:joshua.stafford@sdstate.edu)). See you in South Dakota!!



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 6

## Section Business



## SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

### *Call for Abstracts*

### *51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting*

### *Precision Conservation: The Interface of Wildlife, Agriculture, and People*

*To be held in conjunction with the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Central Mountains and Plains Section of TWS*

*February 27<sup>th</sup> - March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017*

*Cedar Shore Resort - Oacoma, South Dakota*

*Abstracts Due: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016*

The South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society invites submission of contributed papers and posters concerning wildlife-related research and management.

All wildlife-related topics will be considered, and we especially encourage talks related to this year's meeting theme: *Precision Conservation: The Interface of Wildlife, Agriculture, and People*.

Presentations will be 15 minutes in length with 5 minutes for questions. In addition, a limited number of posters will be selected for display. We will also consider submissions for presentations on topics that are closely related to this year's meeting theme for presentation on Monday afternoon, 27 February 2017. These talks will be allowed additional time, approximately 25 minutes in length with 5 minutes for questions. Special consideration for additional time (up to 60 minutes) will be evaluated on an individual basis at the Author's request.

For both papers and posters, please provide an abstract that includes information on a project's background, objectives, methods, results, and interpretation in 300 words or less. Provide a title, author(s), and author affiliation. Indicate which author will be presenting and if the presenter is pursuing a M.S. or Ph.D. degree.

Submit abstracts in Microsoft Word as an email attachment to Joshua Stafford

[joshua.stafford@sdstate.edu](mailto:joshua.stafford@sdstate.edu)

If you have any questions, please contact Joshua by email or phone at 605-688-5759.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 7

## TWS Council Report

The Cleveland Cavaliers brought the city hosting the TWS 2018 Annual Conference its first sports championship in 54 years. The Chicago Cubs won their first World Series in 108 years. The Wyoming Cowboys are playing competitive football and winning games for the first time in a long time. And the people spoke via their ballot and Donald Trump is our President-elect. Truly anything is possible in this great country of ours.

Will things be different under President Trump than they currently are under President Obama? Absolutely. Will initiatives related to conservation be better or worse? Who knows? One thing that is for sure, if wildlife professionals like you choose to disengage, conservation, the public trust doctrine and the use of science in developing and implementing wildlife policy will all suffer – and that is true even if this election had gone the other way.

As working or retired wildlife professionals, each one of you makes an incredibly important contribution to conservation every day. Our professional society, The Wildlife Society, has tools available to help you in your regular job, and help your State or Student Chapter and our Section become a more effective voice for conservation and conservation policy. TWS's website <http://wildlife.org/> under the "Network" header provides information about each of the 27 working groups. Each topic-focused working group is made up of professionals with a special interest and/or expertise. Under the "Engage" header you will find a Policy link. That link will take you to information about the Conservation Affairs Network, Policy Toolkit, Policy Resources and Coalitions the Society is engaged in. The Policy Toolkit provides a wealth of information useful in increasing the effectiveness of your voice. Policy Resources provides all TWS Position Statements and the professional technical reviews that underlay many of our positions. In early 2017, the policy pages will include a new feature, the Policy Library. This library will be a searchable database of all TWS, Section and Chapter policy activities so that each of us can learn from what others in TWS have done.

I have been asked to chair an ad-hoc committee of Council with the task of trying to develop a focused list of priorities for Government Affairs and Partnerships (GAP). Joining me in this work are John Moriarty, North Central Section Representative to Council and GAP Director Keith Norris. We will provide Council with recommended national legislative priorities for GAP staff to work on during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Developing national legislative priorities for TWS is a hugely important task and one where I need your help. Issues we have thought about to date include: 1) Pitman-Robertson modernization legislation, 2) passing the Blue Ribbon panel proposal on funding wildlife conservation, 3) funding the USFWS Wildlife Refuge and Migratory Game Bird programs (FYI, the Service migratory game bird program also includes nongame technical committees within each flyway), and 4) continuing TWS leadership role on wild horse and burro management. While these are far reaching topics, I am sure many of you have ideas you would also like us to consider before we make our final recommendations to Council in March, 2017. Please share your thoughts with me by early January 2017.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 8

## TWS Council Report (continued)

### SOME NEWS ITEMS

Please join me in welcoming Valley City State University (North Dakota) and Weber State University (Utah) as our newest Student Chapters. We now have 18 Student Chapters within our Section. Kristi Confortin from Ball State University is the new Student Liaison to TWS Council.

For the fiscal year (FY) that ended June 30, 2016, TWS had an operations surplus of \$202,397. Unfortunately with the losses our investment portfolio suffered right at the end of the fiscal year due to results from the BREXIT vote, our net surplus was \$183,393. The TWS Operations budget for FY 16/17 is \$2,743,830.

Final attendance at the 23<sup>rd</sup> TWS Annual Conference in Raleigh was 1,859 making it the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest conference ever. Next year we will be meeting in Albuquerque, NM September 23-27. The conference theme is Wildlife Conservation: Crossroads of Cultures. In 2018 we will be meeting October 7-11 in Cleveland, OH. And in 2019 we will be hosting a joint conference with the American Fisheries Society in Reno, NV.

Several CMPS members were recognized for their work at the annual conference. Dr. Terry Messmer, Director of the Jack H. Berryman Institute at Utah State University was awarded the 2016 Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Wildlife Research for his work implementing Utah's Community-based Conservation Program. This group effort was also recognized with the 2016 Group Achievement Award. Dr. Michael Conover, Professor Wildlife Resources at Utah State University along with his coauthor Rossanna M. Vail were awarded the 2016 Wildlife Publications Book Award for their book "Human Disease from Wildlife." Long-time Wyoming Game and Fish Department Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Terry Kreeger was granted TWS Honorary Membership. Dr. Merav Ben-David, Professor of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wyoming was awarded the 2016 Excellence in Wildlife Education Award. Dr. Kevin Monteith, Assistant Professor, Natural Resource Science at the Haub School University of Wyoming along with his five coauthors were awarded the 2016 Wildlife Publications Monograph Award for "Effects of harvest, culture, and climate on trends in size of horn-like structures in trophy ungulates." Dr. David Haukos, Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Leader at Kansas State University and Wildlife Society Bulletin Editor was elected TWS Fellow. Victoria Simonsen, University of Nebraska – Lincoln was awarded the 2016 Donald H. Rusch Memorial Game Bird Scholarship. I hope I did not miss anyone! This is an impressive group of professionals from our Section that were recognized by TWS for their work. Congratulations!

Each of the 2016 Leadership Institute class members, including our own Adam Ahlers of Kansas State University, donated \$100 to The 1,000 campaign. Well done and thank you. The 1,000 campaign has been rebranded in order to reduce confusion and encourage donations. See <http://wildlife.org/the-1000/> for more



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 9

## TWS Council Report (continued)

information. Donations to The 1,000 paid TWS Early Career Professional Working Group dues for every early career professional member of TWS. These donations were also used to pay TWS Student Development Working Group dues for every student member of TWS.

TWS currently has over 105,000 followers on social media and had 281,000 visitors and 450,000 total web site visits last year. This is an amazing increase in global exposure for TWS via electronic media over the past few years.

I need your help on another item. TWS Fellows and Group Achievement Award nominations are due February 1, 2017 as well as most other awards. See the TWS website at <http://wildlife.org/engage/awards/> for more information on each award and how to nominate. If you have individuals you would like to nominate as TWS Fellows and a group you think deserving of the Group Achievement award please let me know by early January 2017. The entire Council considers and votes on these two awards so I want to be sure I can speak for your nominees.

At the end of June 2016 we had 9,133 members. The goal is to increase membership by 5.7% to 9,650 by June 2017.

### BIGGEST NEWS ITEM

Beginning January 1, 2017 every member of TWS, no matter what your membership level, will receive at no additional cost electronic access to all TWS publications, both current and all legacy content. For 2016 this access cost \$75 dollars over and above base dues. For 2017, this benefit will be included as part of membership (Regular Member - \$81, New Professional - \$51, Student and Retired - \$41). This benefit is only available because the hard decisions and work done to get our financial house in order have been successful. So I encourage you to join me and over 9,100 other colleagues and become a member of your professional society, The Wildlife Society.

Let me leave you with a quote from Aldo Leopold taken from The Sand County Almanac.

“One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds. Much of the damage inflicted on land is quite invisible to laymen. An ecologist must either harden his shell and make believe that the consequences of science are none of his business, or he must be the doctor who sees the marks of death in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise.”

Our work, the work of the wildlife professional, is important. Thanks for all you do.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Chapter Updates

### Colorado State University

The fall semester is up and running for CSU TWS, and has started off with some awesome opportunities for our undergraduate students here at Colorado State University. To kick things off, we partnered with our fellow CSU Student Chapter of The Society for Conservation Biology (CSU SCB) for a hands-on water reclamation “work-day” at Robert’s Ranch Conservation Easement. Then, we turned right around for another amazing work-day and our annual fall camping trip. This year we were at the Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, where our volunteers partnered with other students from the Western State TWS Chapter, to string up some high visibility wildlife fencing. In addition, we have been holding our traditional joint bi-weekly meetings with CSU TWS members and CSU SCB members. This year we are featuring several guest lectures from wildlife professionals on different scales, all the way from the university setting to the national standpoint. And if that wasn’t enough, we also have our most popular projects in full swing: the Raptor Monitoring Project and the Camera Project, which are highlighted below.

Every other weekend, CSU TWS students head down to Boyd Lake in Loveland, CO to survey for raptors. Boyd Lake is one of a couple sites chosen by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) for a “citizen science” style raptor monitoring program. All data collected is entered into a data-base managed by CPW.

The camera project has remote wildlife cameras at two locations this year: Poudre Trail and Pineridge Natural Area, Fort Collins, CO. The cameras along the Poudre Trail have been set-up as a partnership with CSU graduate students working on a National Urban Wildlife Monitoring Program, and the cameras at Pineridge are being used as a tool for educational outreach at Boltz Middle school and Shepardson Elementary school.



Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge



Robert’s Ranch



Shepardson Elementary



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 11

## Chapter Updates

### **Kansas State University**

Kansas State Wildlife Society has been hard at work giving students the chance to learn vital skills and networking needed to get ahead in careers. Throughout this semester we have had many workshops, speakers, and socials to help develop our skills in a variety of ways. With events like hunters safety courses and manual driving courses our members are getting a wide variety of opportunities that help with learning essential key component that will aid in our growth as biologists.

As President of The Kansas State University Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, my goals are to engage the student population with the outdoors, provide wildlife conservation technique workshops, and connect students with professionals as well as potential job opportunities. With these goals in mind, our officer panel hopes to aid students in becoming some of the best and brightest wildlife conservationists in our lifetime. A sample of our events include small mammal trapping, community services, basic outdoor skills workshops, bird banding, professional skills seminars, and more. Considering the declining state of our current environment, our jobs as the conservation leaders of tomorrow is only growing more and more important. From my interactions with members of the KSU Student Chapter, I truly believe the future of conservation is bright.

Regarding the hunting workshop, it was held October 7th and 8th. We did classroom lectures and discussions on the role of hunting in society, how wildlife is managed (North American Model of Wildlife Conservation) and how hunting aids in conservation, laws and regulations, firearm basics, and hunter ethics, among other topics. Those were done on campus. Saturday afternoon we headed to one of the instructors' private ranches to do field exercises. We had a firearm instructor from KDWPT come out and we learned about gun safety, hunting with dogs, field walks, tree stand/ bow safety, etc. We also practiced shooting shotguns, rifles, and a crossbow.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Chapter Updates

### University of Nebraska

For our first meeting of the semester, we did a telemetry activity around east campus, to acclimate students with the devices. Our three transmitters were located at places that are relevant to club activities or to the major Fisheries and Wildlife. We have participated in two; Lower Platte South Natural Resource District, nature nights showing our skulls and furs to families. Our yearly canoe trip up to the Niobrara River took place on the weekend of September 23rd. We also did our annual stream clean up of Deadman's Run behind East Campus on October 12th. On September 28<sup>th</sup>, we held a meeting at Pioneers Park Nature Center in Lincoln and Aaron Drury gave us a tour and talked about the prairie restoration happening at the park. At our last meeting we had students present about their internships from the summer and we also played a game of capture the pumpkin to get into the Halloween spirit. In the upcoming weeks we will be participating in deer checks with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. We are also having our advisor; Dennis Ferraro, demonstrate field procedures on alligators. For our last meeting of the semester we will have a quiz-bowl night, a friendly competition about wildlife facts and knowledge, along with our annual wild game feed potluck for members.





# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Chapter Updates

### University of North Dakota

The University of North Dakota's Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society received an influx of interest from new students and new ideas. As a result, members have had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of professional development events. Our first meeting allowed members to get to know each other and learn more about each other's individual passions, interests, and reasons for joining the organization. The following week, we visited Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge to begin the first of many field experiences of the semester. Jordan Young (USFWS), the Wildlife Biologist for the refuge, helped coordinate our involvement and volunteering efforts with the Public Duck Banding Night. Students had the opportunity to get hands-on experience with the ducks while identifying their species, age, and sex, as well as learning more about the overall purposes of bird-banding programs. Students who had participated in this event in the past helped the refuge staff explain this information to the public.

A few weeks later, a group of students visited Turtle River State Park for some camping. They enjoyed exploring the park, relaxing, bonding, and seeing the beautiful Woodland Lodge- the venue for our year-end fundraiser, the Wildlife Game Supper. Another event that our members had the chance to participate in was electrofishing at Turtle River State Park. Aaron Larsen, from the North Dakota Department of Health, provided a workshop on electrofishing, how this technique is useful for monitoring aquatic ecosystems, and basic fish identification and ecology.

Fall in North Dakota provides a great opportunity to get out in the field, but the window is short. Another outing we conducted was a bird-watching night at Agassiz Audubon (NW Minnesota). David Lambeth and Matthew Spoor, two active members of the Grand Forks Audubon Society, were extremely happy to come out and teach us about their passions. We hiked around while learning a lot about the rich history of the management area. Everyone had a great time and learned a lot from them.

Most recently, we hosted a potluck and speaker presentation, welcoming Hannah Pritchert, a game management assistant for the North Dakota Game and Fish. Hannah spent time speaking with our Chapter about the "path" she took to her current position, the internships and jobs she's had, and helpful advice that she's acquired. Students actively engaged with questions and discussion, allowing them to gain insight on beneficial professional development.

One of the biggest highlights from the semester thus far was attending the National Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. Fifteen students (eight graduate and seven undergraduate), as well as two faculty members spent a week at the conference. Ten students gave poster presentations, two gave oral presentations, and the remainder spent their time volunteering. This experience provided a multitude of opportunities for our members. The students who presented their research gained confidence while doing so, networked with professionals within the same area of study, and practiced communi-



UND sophomore, Ayla Morehouse searching for fish while electrofishing in the Turtle River.



UND sophomore, Stephanie Honcharenko enjoying her time electrofishing at Turtle River State Park.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Chapter Updates

### University of North Dakota (continued)

ating their research to a wide range of audiences. At the student-professional networking events, students interacted and engaged with professionals from a wide array of fields, gaining insight and advice. There were over 600 educational presentations, which allowed our members the opportunity to learn a lot about current research, and the potential future aims of the field. Three officers from the UND Wildlife Society Chapter had the opportunity to attend the Student Leaders Luncheon, where they gained valuable insight on maintaining an effective and beneficial chapter. They also met chapter officers from the surrounding area, which they plan to collaborate with on future events.

It has been a very exciting semester thus far. As we look forward, we will focus on bringing in a variety of speakers, host a resume workshop night, a graduate student panel, and more. We want to say thank you to everyone in the Central Mountains and Plains Section for your continuous support.



Fifteen students and two faculty members from the University of North Dakota's Wildlife Society Chapter attended the National Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina



The TWS National Conference poster session.  
(Photo by Andrea Orabona)



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 15

## Chapter Updates

### North Dakota

The North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society has started a new social media project called "Prairie Matters". The intent of this project is to promote a greater appreciation and understanding of native prairie on the northern Great Plains.

Among the topics that we have been highlighting this summer and fall include:

- 1) Species of plants and animals that are iconic symbols of native prairie.
- 2) Research being conducted on plants and animals found in the northern Great Plains.
- 3) Species of conservation concern.

This site is NOT a political forum; the goal is to simply get people to care about and value this unique ecosystem and the plants and animals that depend upon it.

The social media links to the "Prairie Matters" project are:

<https://prairiematters.org/> - Blog

<https://www.facebook.com/prairiematters/> - Facebook

<https://www.instagram.com/prairiematters/> - Instagram

<https://prairiematters.org/contributors/> - Contributor guidelines page

If anyone is interested in submitting photographs and text for postings, please let us know. We are always looking for content to post on our blog, Facebook page, and Instagram accounts.

Please visit the links and "like" the content! For more information contact Bill Jensen ([bjensen@nd.gov](mailto:bjensen@nd.gov))



Photo from Prairie Matters on Facebook



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 16

## Chapter Updates

### **South Dakota**

Over this past summer, the Board has been following a couple of items, and we have expressed some of our concerns and support as they relate to our Chapter objectives. The Board contacted Representative Kristi Noem to urge her support for H.R. 5650 (Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2016), which would secure crucial federal funding to support wildlife conservation at the state level to assist in implementing State Wildlife Action Plans. We also worked closely with our Public Lands Committee to formulate a comment letter on the proposed Rushmore Connector Trail. The Board was also contacted by the Friends of the Big Sioux River urging us to become engaged in their conservation efforts. Specifically, they are working on a conservation strategy for South Dakota, and are urging our congressional delegation in Washington to support riparian buffer strip programs and funding, as well as to create a state bill that would focus on riparian buffers, which they would like to introduce during the 2017 Legislative Session. They held a meeting in Sioux Falls, and our Secretary/Treasurer Julie DeJong was able to attend this meeting to become more fully aware of their efforts, and how we may be able to become involved. Nathan Baker (President) encourages any members that are aware of any potential bills, project proposals, conservation projects, etc. that you feel the Chapter should weigh in on, to please contact him or a board member.

The 51st Annual SDTWS meeting will be held at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, from February 27th – March 1st, 2017. The theme of this year's meeting will be "PRECISION CONSERVATION: THE INTERFACE OF WILDLIFE, AGRICULTURE, AND PEOPLE". As a reminder, if you have any specific topics or presentations that you or someone you know would like to give, please don't hesitate to pass those along to President-Elect, Josh Stafford ([joshua.stafford@sdstate.edu](mailto:joshua.stafford@sdstate.edu)).

To continue with our goal of sending one Board member to the Annual TWS Conference each year, Nathan Baker (President) represented our Chapter at the 23rd Annual Conference on October 15th – 19th, this year in Raleigh, North Carolina. Nathan was excited to be able to attend this conference and network with other State Chapters and wildlife professionals. The Board also decided to support South Dakota students again this year through the TWS Student Travel Grant Program. Three students applied for grants and SD TWS supported them in the amount of \$200 each.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 17

## Upcoming Events

### **Wyoming Chapter 2016 Annual Meeting**

Cody, Wyoming  
November 15-17, 2016

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Updates and more information will be available at <http://wytwsconference.org/> as they become available.

#### VENUE AND LODGING

The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Cody, Wyoming.

---

### **2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference**

Lincoln, Nebraska  
February 5– February 8, 2017

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at <http://www.midwestfw.org/html/meetings.shtml>.

#### VENUE AND LODGING

Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska.

---

### **South Dakota Chapter 51st Annual Meeting**

Oacoma, South Dakota  
February 27– March 1, 2017

#### WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION

Information forthcoming at <http://wildlife.org/south-dakota-chapter/south-dakota-chapter-annual-meeting/>.

#### VENUE AND LODGING

Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, South Dakota.

#### CONTACT

President-Elect Josh Stafford ([joshua.stafford@sdstate.edu](mailto:joshua.stafford@sdstate.edu)) or President Nathan Baker ([nathan.baker@state.sd.us](mailto:nathan.baker@state.sd.us)) with ideas for topics or presentations.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 18

## Annual Business Meeting (August 10, 2016)

Jim Hays called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

**Board Members Present:** Laurel Badura, Justin Hamilton, Lindsey Messinger, Mindy Rice, Andrea Orabona, and Jim Hays.

**Secretary's Report:** Laurel presented the membership with the 2015 Annual Business Meeting minutes. Bob Wood motioned to approve the Secretary's report. Mindy Rice seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Laurel presented the membership with the treasurer's report. The current account balance is \$13,239.48. Bob Wood motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Stan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports

**Audit:** Andrea and Jim audited the books and all was found to be satisfactory.

**Nominations and Elections:** Justin presented the new Executive Board members to the membership.

Jim Hayes is continuing as the Vice-President.

Stephane Ferrero is our new Board Member At-large. Stephanie serves Colorado and Kansas.

Shelly Deisch is our new Board Member At-large. Shelly is from South Dakota.

Gary White motioned to "destroy" the Survey Monkey. Bill Jensen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Membership:** Weber State University and the University of Utah are our new Student Chapters for 2015-2016. Valley City State has applied to become a new Student Chapter and is pending approval. Valley City State University resides in North Dakota.

**Publicity:** Andrea reported that our Newsletter Editor is Aleshia Fremgen so please submit articles to her for inclusion into our newsletter (fremgenal@missouri.edu). Andrea will be attending the State Chapter meetings at least once during her term. She will be taking a poster giving membership information about CMPS.

**Resolutions and Statements:** None offered.

**Awards:** We received two nominations for the Professional Award and one nomination for the Citizen's Conservation Achievement Award. Awards will be presented at the Evening Banquet.

### Old Business

**Bylaws Changes:** Jim mentioned that the Board will contact membership with bylaws changes so the membership can vote on any changes that may be needed. The Board is trying to keep in mind items such as the Annual Meeting including auction proceeds, travel, and organizing. Andrea has gone through the current bylaws and feels there aren't a lot of major changes, just discrepancies in language such as "Board" and "Executive Board". Andrea would like to clean up the format and language. Andrea mentioned that we will be discussing, with Chapter input, the way CMPS meetings will be held. This will keep in mind what works for the State and Student Chapters. The Board is seeking suggestions from the membership during this process.

**Conservation Affairs Network:** No report at this time.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 19

## Annual Business Meeting (August 10, 2016) continued

### New Business:

#### **Keith Norris, Director of Government Affairs and Partnerships:**

This office recognizes that the policies at the Federal, State, and Regional levels support the work you do to sustain wildlife populations on the ground. One of the initiatives this office has started is the Conservation Affairs Network. That idea was developed out of the idea that National, Section, and State Chapters were not communicating as well as they could on wildlife affairs and policies. Most of the Chapters already had committees in place to handle policy issues but the National Chapter was interested in facilitating support to the State and Sections by creating a network amongst the levels to increase communication. National is creating a policy library with a database that will be searchable through the membership portal. This library will be able to tell you past and present TWS policies so there is a more consistent message throughout the Nation.

Keith mentioned that Certification is simpler to apply for now and the process is quicker. The entire application can now be done online.

A membership directory has been developed similar to a LinkedIn profile. Keith is asking for members to log in to the membership portal and update their information.

An auto-renewal membership is now in place. Members can save \$5 if they enroll in auto-renewal.

The 1,000 initiative is a strategic effort which carries the catch-phrase "Leading By Example". It is a donation effort (minimum \$100 donation) through National that allows members to donate to their program of choice within National. Initiatives include early career membership, policy support, and many more.

National has new partners that are year-round partners now, not just partnerships that occur around the meeting. Bayer Bee Care and Ducks Unlimited are the most recent partnerships. Several other partnerships are in process.

New policies National is working on include Wild Horse Management and an initiative to implement and improve new management strategies for overpopulated wild horse populations on Forest Service and BLM lands. A congressional briefing and testimony in front of Congress has occurred over the last year. National will be seeking further action from members.

Blue Ribbon Panel Legislation (Recovery of America's Wildlife). This is a bill that seeks to support Wildlife Conservation Funding. It is very similar to State Wildlife Grants but would be permanent funding to support State Wildlife Action Plans.

Gary White pointed out that the new way to contact congressional leaders is very convenient to do as an individual. Bill Jensen would like more separation between contacting congressional leaders as an individual and a Chapter representative. Keith recommended that you should create separation by, as a Chapter representative, sending in a letter directly to the congressional leader rather than using the Action Center provided by National, which is more individual oriented.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 20

## Annual Business Meeting (August 10, 2016) continued

### **Bob Lanka, Central Mountain and Plains Section Representative to TWS Council:**

Bob reported the National Meeting was October 15-19, 2015 in Raleigh, North Carolina. In 2017, the meeting will be held in September at Albuquerque, NM. Amongst the great reasons to attend the meeting, networking and professional development tops the list.

TWS had a tough budget struggle in recent years but Ken Williams was committed to change this and, for the first time in several years, there was a surplus in budgeting in 2015 and 2016. Despite a bump in the road with 2016 investments, TWS still reported a surplus of approximately \$190,000 in 2016.

Membership had been declining in the past years but this past year, we had a bump of 54 members. Not a large bump, but a bump just the same.

Member statistics—70% male, 30% female, 94% Caucasian, 25% habitat and wildlife management, 14% students, and 5% CMPS members. Bob encouraged collaboration with Tribes to get more members.

Bob asked to increase Section members by 12.5% in 2016. Today, a report from National identified 433 new members to the Section. Bob will be verifying these numbers.

New member benefits—As of January 1, 2017, Council and Staff have worked to make membership more valuable. A regular membership fee will include all of the journals available online. This will cost the Society \$125,000 a year and will be a substantial portion of the budget. The hope is that more wildlife professionals will become members of National.

Leadership Institute—A wave of retirements is going through the profession right now. Since 2006, TWS has committed to train new members to fulfill the open roles left behind by retirements. We have one CMPS member, Adam Ahlers (Kansas State University), attending the Leadership Institute and Bob will be his mentor. The application deadline for next year is March 2017.

Bob finished with a moving speech to encourage members to continue membership in The Wildlife Society and to encourage new members to join. Renew your membership, encourage those you know, join TWS!

**Lindsey Messinger:** Lindsey wanted to remind everyone that she is the representative from CMPS for the Editorial Advisory Board. She stated her term has no limit and is asking if anyone would like to take her place.

**State Chapter Updates:** Jim asked State Chapter representatives to be available to the members to give the Chapter updates.

**2017 Annual Meeting:** South Dakota is the next Annual Meeting location.

**Wayne W. Sandfort Student Travel Grant:** We've received 8 applications for the Wayne W. Sandfort Student Travel Grant. The Board will be reviewing the applications and giving their recommendations for recipients.

**Bob Wood motioned to adjourn the meeting. Gary White seconded the motion. Motion approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Page 21

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes (September 8, 2016)

Executive Board Members Present: Andrea Orabona, Laurel Badura, Jim Hays, Aleshia Fremgen, Stephanie Ferrero, Karie Decker, Lindsey Messinger. Absent: Justin Hamilton, Shelly Deisch.

Andrea started by thanking Mindy Rice and Silka Kempema for their service to CMPS as Executive Board (Board) members. Current Board members introduced themselves.

**Treasurer's Report:** Laurel presented the Treasurer's report to the Board. The current account balance is \$13,239.48. Laurel presented a bill to the Board in the amount of \$101.18. Jim asked whether or not we received auction proceeds from the Annual Meeting. We have not but Laurel will work with the CO Chapter Treasurer, Nathan Seward, to retrieve those funds. Jim Hays motioned to approve the Treasurer's report as read. Karie Decker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Recap of CMPS Meeting:** Jim gave a recap of the CMPS Annual Meeting. The meeting went well and was in a beautiful location. Approximately 100 people attended the meeting. One thing to note from the meeting was that the Business Meeting portion was not long enough to cover the topics that needed to be discussed.

**Student Travel Grants:** We had a total of 11 grant applications. Karie motioned to provide Student Travel Grants to the University of North Dakota in the amount of \$825 (\$275/person—3 people), Mercede Shaw (University of Utah)—\$500, Mark Chynoweth (University of Utah)—\$500, and Rebecca Much (Colorado State University)—\$500. Stephanie seconded the motion. Motion carried. Andrea will inform all applicants of their award status.

**CMPS Website:** Andrea needs updated information on new Board members. Andrea has been going through the website looking for other items that need to be changed or updated and she is seeking additional items from the Board.

**Newsletter:** Aleshia is looking for newsletter items by October 1, 2016. Andrea will send out a reminder to CMPS with Aleshia's email address so members can submit their newsletter items. Aleshia suggested that future fall/winter newsletters might be pushed back a month so students are in school longer and would have more items to share. Aleshia needs the awards letters for the newsletter. Jim will provide Aleshia with the information.

**CMPS Bylaws:** Andrea will send the bylaws with track changes out to the Board for review.

**New Student Chapter:** Valley City State University (July) and the University of Utah (March) are the two new Student Chapters for 2016.

**Discussion of Annual Meeting Timing and Host State:** Andrea has been keeping track of this dialogue and the Board members received it via email. The Board had a long discussion on the history of the Annual Meeting, the purpose of the Annual Meeting, and items for consideration when working with the host Chapter. Andrea will work with an ad hoc committee to resolve concerns we have regarding the Annual Meeting.

**Facebook:** Andrea requested a volunteer to manage our Facebook page. Aleshia will coordinate with Mindy Rice to take over the page, and will contact Tony Gurzick (CO Chapter President) for Facebook tips.

**2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference:** The conference will be held in Lincoln, NE on February 5<sup>th</sup> through February 8<sup>th</sup>. A call for symposia has been sent out.

**National TWS Meeting in Raleigh:** Andrea will be attending the National meeting.

Jim motioned to adjourn the business meeting. Karie seconded the motion. Motion carried.



# Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

## Central Mountains and Plains Section Directory

Officer Position	Held by
------------------	---------

**STATE CHAPTERS**

**COLORADO**

President Tony Gurzick

President-Elect Pat Magee

**KANSAS**

President Bill Jensen

President-Elect Brad Rueschhoff

**NEBRASKA**

President Laurel Badura

President-Elect Jennifer Frisch

**NORTH DAKOTA**

President Bill Jensen

President-Elect Rick Nelson

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

President Nathan Baker

President-Elect Joshua Stafford

**UTAH**

President Brock McMillan

President-Elect Riley Peck

**WYOMING**

President Matt Hayes

President-Elect Holly Copeland

**STUDENT CHAPTERS**

**CO STATE UNIV.**

President Carter Miller

Advisor Stewart Breck

Advisor Larissa Bailey

**WESTERN STATE COLORADO UNIVERSITY**

President Dustin Hannasch

Advisor Patrick Magee

**EMPORIA STATE UNIV. - KS**

President Tyler Thomsen

Advisor William Jensen

**KS STATE UNIV.**

President Caroline Skidmore

President-Elect Richard Rogers

Advisor David Haukos

**CHADRON STATE COLLEGE - NE**

President Grant Gydesen

President-Elect Will McClintic

Advisor Teresa Frink

**UNIV. OF NE - KEARNEY**

President Kelsey Seifert

Advisor Dr Thomas Freeman

**UNIV. OF NE - LINCOLN**

President Courtney Anderson

President-Elect Jessie Hall

Advisor Larkin Powell

**WAYNE STATE COLLEGE - NE**

President-Elect Kylie Comba

Advisor Mark Hammer

**ND STATE UNIV.**

President Micki Palmersheim

Advisor Erin Gillam

**UNIV. OF ND**

President Lucas Knowlton

Advisor Jay Boulanger

Advisor Susan Ellis-Felege

**VALLEY CITY STATE UNIV. - ND**

President Brandon Ramsey

President-Elect Joshua Becker

Advisor Bob Anderson

**SD STATE UNIV.**

President Josh Goeman

Advisor Kent Jensen

**BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIV. - UT**

President Jordan Rosell

President-Elect Levi Watkins

Advisor Thomas Smith

Advisor Randy Larsen

**UNIVERSITY OF UTAH**

President Colter Dye

Advisor Amy Sibul

**UT STATE UNIV.**

President Bret Mossman

President-Elect Margaret  
Hallerud

Advisor Dan MacNulty

**UTAH VALLEY UNIV.**

President —

Advisor Melissa Monk

**WEBER STATE UNIV. - UT**

President —

Advisor John Cavitt

**UNIV. OF WY**

President Jace Cussins

Advisor Merav Ben-David